

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28TH, 1880.

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The President, the Rev. J. E. Tenison-Woods, F.G.S., F.L.S., &c., in the Chair.

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Visitors present:—H. Selkirk, Esq., and the Very Rev. Dean Lynch.

G. S. Bray, Esq., was elected a member of the Society.

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DONATIONS.

From Harvard College.—Annual Report of Curator of Museum of Comparative Zoology, 1878-79. Index to Vol. V. of Bulletin. Bulletin, Vol. V., No. 16.

From Baron F. von Mueller, K.C.M.G., etc., Index perfectus ad Caroli Linnæi, species plantarum.

From Nurlandaise Soc. des Sciences Exactes et Nat. Haarlem, Vol. 14, pars 3 and 5, of their Proceedings.

From Royal Microscopical Soc., London.—Vol. II., parts 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 7a.

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PAPERS READ.

ON A NEW SPECIES OF *Nepenthes*.

BY F. M. BAILEY, Esq., F.L.S., CORR. MEM. LINN. SOC.

The order of *Nepenthaceæ* which belongs to Lindley's euporbial alliance of diclinous exogens, is limited to the single genus *Nepenthes*. It is spread over Southern Asia and the islands of the Indian and South Pacific Oceans, but most abundant according to Benthham in the Indian Archipelago. The species are natives of swampy ground, with no known properties, they are only cultivated because of the curious leafy sack or pitcher as it is called, which is formed at the extremity of the leaves. This has

obtained for them the name of "Pitcher plants." The organ itself has given rise to some controversy among botanists as to which part of the plant was the leaf and which the petiole or footstalk. The recent investigations of Hooker have shown that the pitcher is a modification of a gland at the termination of the midrib. About twenty species are known, some of which have the pitchers of large size, and some have pitchers of two kinds. The only Australian species hitherto known is *N. Kennedyi*, described by Baron v. Mueller in the fifth volume of the '*Fragmenta Phytographiæ*,' and he says it is distinguished from all the other species known to him by the peculiar venation which give the leaves a tessellated character. This peculiarity is shared by the species I now describe. Mr. Bentham is doubtful as to whether *N. Kennedyi* is more than a variety of the widely-spread *N. phyllamphora*, from which it differs in the much more slender peristome of the pitcher. It is found in the extreme north of the Cape York peninsula, whence specimens have been brought down, and are now growing luxuriantly in the gardens of the Queensland Acclimatization Society, Bowen Park, Brisbane. My attention was drawn a few days ago by Mr. Bernays, the President of the Society, to some luxuriant specimens which he thought differed from the ordinary species *N. Kennedyi*. On examining these plants I found them to consist of two evidently distinct species, one of which appears to me to be new. I have therefore distinguished it with the specific name of *Bernaysii* on account of the great interest taken by that gentleman in everything relating to the botany of Queensland. I forward herewith a leaf bearing ascidium or pitcher that the members may have an opportunity of comparing the two species. The flowers and fruits of both are unknown as yet, but from the appearance of the Bowen Park plants we may hope before very long to see them fruiting side by side. The following is the diagnosis.

Stems *procumbent*, clothed with the clasping bases of the petioles. Leaves alternate, almost crowded, linear-lanceolate, with the *short*

winged petioles, one foot to thirteen inches long and about two inches broad, with five faint longitudinal veins on each side of the midrib, sprinkled with black dots and close adpressed hairs of white color. Midrib produced six or seven inches beyond the lamina, *not curled* but shortly recurved and bearing an ascidium three to four inches long, inflated at the base, the *two anterior ribs winged* with wings  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 lines broad, colored and prominently ciliate towards the truncate top, posterior wing somewhat faint, ending in a hooked spur. Operculum ovate, with numerous small reddish glands on the inner side. Peristome narrow and slender, marked with close, transverse lines.

Habitat, Cape York, whence it was sent by a correspondent some few years ago to the Queensland Acclimatization Society.

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ON A FOSSILIFEROUS BED AT THE MOUTH OF THE ENDEAVOUR RIVER.

BY THE REV. J. E. TENISON-WOODS, F.G.S., F.L.S., PRESIDENT OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY, N.S.W.

The mouth of the Endeavour River is a wide estuary forming a bay which is entered by crossing a sandy bar. The north side of the entrance is a flat sandy beach. The south side is a granite hill about 900 feet high. On the land side this granite hill is broken through by a volcanic dyke, very like some of the older tertiary dolerites of Victoria and New South Wales. The granite hill is called Grassy Hill, and it was upon this which Captain Cook encamped while repairing the "Endeavour," more than a hundred years ago. It is very steep on the side facing the sea, but in front of it inside the bar there is a mass of large boulders derived from the volcanic dyke. These are covered with the usual littoral shell-fish of these latitudes, namely *Planaxis sulcata*, *Nerita polita*, *Nerita albicella*, *Acmæa marmorata*, &c. The shingle round these boulders is much mingled with sand and tropical